Sale of JBO by Haldia Refinery

3175. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Haldia Refinery of Indian Oil Corporation sells Jute Batching Oil, a fractional distillate of crude, to Indian Jute Mills at subsidised price of Rs. 7,843 a tonne;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Jute Batching Oil like high speed diesel is health hazardous and should not be used in jute bags manufactured for packing edible items; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to stop production and use of JBO in order to protect the health of consumers particularly when JBO is not used in jute bags meant for exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., *Ex* Haldia Refinery is selling two types of Jute Batching Oil, JBO-C (Type I) and JBO-P (Type 2). There is no subsidy in JBO selling price which is priced at Rs. 17,700/MT. *Ex* Haldia Plus excise duty and local levies.

(b) and (c) JBO-C (BIS Grade Type 1 meeting BIS 1758-1986) meets Food and Drug Administration requirements and passes the ultra violet absorbency test, thus making it safe for use as Jute Batching Oil in manufacturing Jute bags used for packaging edible items.

Irregularities in selection of dealers in Bihar

†3176. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the action taken by Government on the compaints of Members of Parliament regarding allotment of Petrol Pumps/Gas Agencies in Bihar as on date;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the status of action taken on the allegations levelled against the Chairman of Allotment Selection Committee of Sector-4 by the Members of Parliament;

(c) whether allotment of agencies selected by the Selection Committee of Sector-4 has been cancelled; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The complaints received from time to time against selection of dealers/distibutors of petroleum products in the country, including Bihar, are to be got investigated and action is taken on the reports, as per the guidelines laid down.

Cost of production of natural gas

†3177. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the expected average cost of natural gas during the present period of Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the cost of production of natural gas in the country is more than that of the international level;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) During the present period of Ninth Five Year Plan, the average cost of production of natural gas by Oil India Limited is Rs. 1284.04 and by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited is Rs. 1445.25 per thousand standard cubic metre which is exclusive of statutory levies and normative return on capital employed.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.